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Copy 13 of 13

19 APR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Executive Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : ISINGLASS Research and Development Program

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval in paragraph five.

2. At the NRP Executive Committee meeting of 16 November 1965 it was agreed that funds for ISINGLASS research and development could come out of the NRO General R&D account, available in FY 66 and programmed for FY 67. In line with this, OSA/DD/S&T prepared a nine-month ISINGLASS R&D program (attached) which was transmitted to the D/NRO on 23 February 1966. Briefly, this program seeks to determine the capability of the ISINGLASS concept to satisfy our goals for resolution, swath width, survivability, reaction time, range, and tactical flexibility. Additionally, the study is designed to establish reliable system cost estimates. Total cost for nine months is estimated at

3. We have had no response from NRO on this matter and, if other programs offer any guide, it is not likely that satisfactory agreement, if any, will be reached for some time. Nevertheless, some urgency has been injected into the situation. As you know, the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation has supported this program freely for two years as a proprietary effort and has expended about , tying up a number of key people. In recent discussions with McDonnell executives, our people have become convinced that McDonnell shortly will ask to be released from our security arrangements so that they may seek financial support elsewhere. Should this occur, opportunity for Agency participation in the program will probably be lost. Furthermore, subsequent lack of security may well seriously reduce the usefulness of the concept to the NRP.

4. In order to avoid this happening, I recommend that the ISINGLASS R&D program be placed on the EXCOM agenda for discussion and decision as soon as possible. Otherwise, a modest Agency contract with McDonnell would, I believe, suffice

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to retain control of this program. I would suggest a contract on the order of [redacted] from Agency funds, to initiate the R&D program and carry it through FY 66. Subsequent attempts would be made to recover this money from the NRO upon approval of an ISINGLASS R&D program.

5. It is recommended that the course of action outlined in paragraph four be undertaken.

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[redacted]  
ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

CONCUR:

Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

The recommendation contained  
in paragraph five is approved:

Director of Central Intelligence

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25X1nature Recommended:

*Acting*

Director of Special Activities

Attachment - 1  
As noted above

APD/OSA/[ ] :pca (14 Apr 66) 25X1

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